

I have been in broadcasting for almost 15 years now, and I am encouraged that Chairman Powell has started this task force to look into localism on our airwaves. I have been waiting for years to see the FCC step in and slow down all of this corporate hoarding of both AM and FM spectrum, so much so that potential broadcasters like myself cannot even get a license for my area with a population of 300 people. I am currently setting up a Part 15 legal AM station until we can actually get a broadcast license, and I hope the Localism Task Force will see the need to open the window for the smaller broadcaster in situations like this. Current Part 15 rules limit AM to 100mw with a 3 meter antenna which has a 1/2 mile range under *ideal* circumstances. FM is even more restrictive with only 10mw output, and I feel both of these stifling rules need to be amended to a one watt output with 1/4 wave antenna length. With this simple and unobtrusive change, those of us in rural areas could at least provide news and weather to our local population. I hope this Task Force will look into this, and perhaps bring about a change that was actually on the books many years ago. I also look forward to seeing more of the positive changes Chairman Powell has been making during his tenure.